

# West Havener Who Served With Him Calls Oswald 'An Expert Rifleman'

WEST HAVEN — Lee Harvey Oswald, who was charged with the shooting of President Kennedy before meeting his own death, was known as "a good shot and an expert rifleman," according to an ex-Marine living here.

Peter Connor, 25, who lives with his brother James J. Connor at 27 Flaum Drive, said that he was stationed with Oswald in Japan

in 1958, where Oswald also had a reputation in the unit as a competent radio technician.

Connor pointed out that the bullet that killed President Kennedy is reported to have been shot at a range of 100 yards.

In rifle practice in Japan, he said, the normal practice range distance was 500 yards.

With Oswald's reputation for

shooting, plus a telescopic site, he suggested that the shot that killed the president would have been "like knocking a fly off the wall."

Connor is an apprentice iron worker, employed in construction of Macy's in New Haven.

Connor said he could not recall Oswald ever discussing politics while in the Marines. Oswald had identified himself to the Dallas police as a "Marxist."

Oswald, Connor said, "would never have won a popularity contest in the barracks. He seemed as if he were mad at everybody."

Yet, the ex-Marine continued, there were times when he seemed a regular fellow. "He wasn't all bad," Connor said.

"He was a pretty insistent kid. If he said something he really meant it," Connor continued.

But, he wasn't much for conversation, Connor said. When his fellow Marines were heading for a night on the town, Oswald would remain behind or leave before or after them.

"No one ever knew what he did in town," Connor said.

Connor recalled that Oswald was given a court martial for bringing a privately-owned pistol into the barracks. He said the weapon was discovered when it discharged.

"There was something about him that was strange," Connor said. "You could see it the first time he walked into the barracks."

"If we was in a square with 10,000 people in it I could pick him out."